

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/538,916  
Amendment filed May 2, 2008  
Reply to OA dated February 8, 2008

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5-16 and 18-21, and amend claims 1 and 17, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): ~~A~~ An isolated marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, ~~selected from a protein which is a human fibrinogen  $\alpha$ -E chain decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 5,900 (5.9 kDa protein), a protein which is an apolipoprotein AII decomposition product and has a molecular weight of 7,800 (7.8 kDa protein) and variants of these proteins which have the same function as that of the proteins as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease~~  
the protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing.

Claims 2-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently amended): ~~A~~ An isolated protein having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing, ~~or its variant having the same function as that of said protein as a marker protein for diagnosing liver disease, said variant being a protein having 90% or more homology with said amino acid sequence or a protein having an amino acid sequence formed by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).